

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
SEATTLE 5

July 20, 1957

*Call Paul Alexander, AMS
Darker - NGS*

25X1A9a

Dear Jim:

I need some help. And I hope that you will be able to give it to me.

Authors of articles in Encyclopaedia Britannica, both the Senior and Junior sets, frequently refer to the sizes of lakes, lengths of rivers and heights of mountains in their articles. From time to time, authors of different articles have occasion to refer to the same lakes, rivers and mountains. As likely as not, these different authors differ in the sizes of the same lakes, the lengths of the same rivers and the heights of the same mountains. What I am trying to do is to plan the compilation of a card file at Britannica in Chicago against which the sizes of lakes, the lengths of rivers and the heights of mountains in all articles can be checked so that all articles referring to the same thing use the same figures.

Enclosed are two sheets indicating the variations between what has been put together as a card file at EB, what has been obtained from a government publication of the country involved or correspondence with someone in that country, Lippincott, Webster, etc. You can see from the variation what the problem is.

The question concerning which I should like to get your help is this:

1. Is there any government agency in your organization or that you may know about that attempts to compile or maintain a file of statistics of this sort, or
2. Is there any government agency in your organization or that you may know about that has records from which a compilation of these statistics could be made?

Please understand that I do not wish or expect you to make exhaustive investigations. I hope that without such investigations you will be able to give me the advice I need, drawing on your general knowledge of the situation.

Sincerely,

Donald
Donald Hudson

DH/mh
encls.